

**From:** Jeff Mao  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I would like to say that allowing MS to give money and/or equipment to the educational system without restrictions simply furthers their dominance in the market. In addition, as a professional educator who is in charge of integrating technology into education, MS products are rarely my first choice. Everyone knows that the total cost of ownership for a windows PC is far higher than for a Macintosh computer. If computers are thrust upon a school without prior planning and an installed support structure will only waste time and money. The computers will probably collect dust as the schools in greatest need will not have the funds to support the computers or train their faculty.

I think MS should pay out, but perhaps placing that money into a fund similar to the E-rate funds. Those fund then can be given out to schools that need it after they have shown both need and a plan to use it. Allow them to spend it on anything technological in the same way E-rate is used for anything related to telecommunications. Further, 1 Billion dollars seems to be too small an amount for a company like Microsoft. If my company made as much money as Microsoft, then having to pay out 1 Billion dollars wouldn't bother me. It would just be part of the cost of doing business, but it would not change my practices. Bill Gates and his wife alone gave over 20 Billion dollars away last year in charity,...so what do you think 1 Billion dollars for the entire corporation is going to do? Nothing!

Increase the fine to something significant so that the company will think again about how they do business. A mere slap on the hand will change nothing. And put the money into a fund that is managed by an outside group, perhaps the government,...perhaps, to ease the cost of administration, simply make them put Billions of dollars into the E-Rate fund. There is already an established structure so it wouldn't add any work or labor or cost,...but it would allow those schools that really need the funding to get it. Perhaps it would allow more schools in need to be able to pay for internal wiring and connectivity. It would allow them to reallocate their own funds to purchase the computers and software, the training and support,...and leave the wires, connectivity etc to the E-Rate.

Thanks for listening,

Jeff Mao

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